

North of Falcon Policy

Commission Briefing – December 14, 2018



Policy C-3608

Expires December 31, 2018

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Purpose

- Brief FWC on current North of Falcon Policy
- Potential modifications for new policy
- Policy Consideration Process/Schedule
- Seek Commission Guidance

North of Falcon Policy

Department staff will ensure that management decisions are consistent with:

- Statutory Authority
- *U.S. v. Washington*
- *U.S. v. Oregon*
- Endangered Species Act
- Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan
- Pacific Salmon Treaty
- PFMC's Framework Salmon Management Plan
- State/Tribal agreements
- Fish and Wildlife Commission Policies

North of Falcon Policy

Provides general guidance to the Department when planning and managing annual salmon fisheries

- Conservation Principles
- Providing Harvest Opportunity
- In-season Management
- Monitoring and Sampling
- Enforcement and Compliance
- Gear and Fishery Conflicts
- Incidental Mortalities
- Communications

North of Falcon Policy

Department will implement consistent with the 21st Century Salmon and Steelhead Initiative

- Science-based, well-documented, transparent, well-communicated and accountable
- Meet or exceed ESA, recovery and conservation goals

Potential modifications to Policy

- For Puget Sound sockeye, Lake Washington threshold reference seems dated, and there is no mention of Baker sockeye - Consider eliminating Lake Washington specific reference, simply identify Puget Sound-origin sockeye as recreational priority
- Clarify language referencing other Commission policies in recognition that the policies may be modified or guidance provided by the Commission
- Change term of new policy from 2 years to 5 years ?

Fishery Management

Puget Sound

- The Puget Sound harvest management objectives for chinook and coho, in priority order are to:
 - (1) Provide meaningful recreational fishing opportunities; and
 - (2) Identify and provide opportunities for commercial harvest
- ~~First 200,000 Lake Washington sockeye available for non-treaty harvest provided to recreational fisheries~~
- **Puget Sound-origin sockeye will be prioritized for recreational opportunity**
- For fisheries directed at harvestable Puget Sound origin pink salmon, seasons will be established that provide meaningful opportunities for both recreational and commercial fisheries while minimizing gear and other fishery conflicts

Fishery Management

Puget Sound

- For Fraser River-origin chum, pink and sockeye stocks, the majority of the harvest to commercial fisheries
- For Puget Sound-origin chum stocks, the majority of the harvest to commercial fisheries

Fishery Management

- **Grays Harbor** - managed consistent with the Commission's Grays Harbor Policy (POL C-3621), **including any modifications made to the policy, and any guidance or clarifications provided by the Commission.**
- **Willapa Bay** - managed consistent with the Commission's Willapa Bay Policy (POL C-3622), **including any modifications made to the policy, and any guidance or clarifications provided by the Commission.**

Fishery Management

- **Columbia River** – The Fish and Wildlife Commission’s policy on Columbia River Salmon Management (POL C-3620), **including any modifications made to the policy, and any guidance or clarifications provided by the Commission**, shall guide pre-season and in-season planning of Columbia River salmon fisheries.
- **Pacific Ocean** - managed consistent with the PFMC’s Framework Salmon Management Plan

Communications

Make ongoing improvements for effective public involvement during the NOF planning process and fishery implementation

- Include participants as observers during appropriate state/tribal meetings
- Record decisions in writing
- Use a variety of tools to communicate effectively
- Consult with stakeholders prior to making major decisions with the comanagers

Other issues

- Emerging issues for 2019 fisheries

Policy Process

- December 14, 2018 FWC briefing
 - Briefed Commission and seek guidance on modifications
 - Initial public comment received
- December 2018
 - Briefing on potential revisions to draft policy
 - Additional public comment
 - Additional Commission guidance for revised draft
 - Revised draft posted online for public comment
- January 2019
 - Commission considers adoption of revised policy

North of Falcon Policy

- Policy C-3608
- Expires December 31, 2018

Questions/Guidance ?